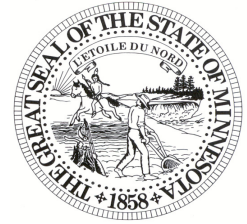




**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Office of Energy Security**



Issued: October 22, 2009

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**In the Matter of the Application of EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC,  
For a Certificate of Need for Large Energy Facility,  
a 280 MW Wind Energy Farm in Fillmore County**

**PUC Docket Number: IP-6688/CN-08-961**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the environmental report (ER) for the EcoHarmony West Wind Project has been completed and is available for review by the public. The ER addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. Copies of the ER and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19910>

***Project Description***

EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, is proposing to construct a 280 megawatt (MW) wind project in Fillmore County, Minnesota. A final decision on turbine selection and design has not been made, but the project will consist of turbines with a rated output between 1.5 and 3.0 MW in such number and combination as to yield 280 MW.

Facilities associated with the project include gravel access roads, a new substation, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, meteorological towers, and an electrical collection system. The area of direct land use will be between 47 and 94 acres for turbines and access roads, depending on turbine size and number, with an additional 10 acres required for the new substation and O&M building.

The project will interconnect to the transmission grid through a 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, approximately 8.5 miles long, which will connect the new project substation to a switching station and an existing 161 kV transmission line owned by ITC-Midwest.

The project will be located in the southeastern Minnesota townships of Harmony, Bristol, York, Carimona, Forestville, and Preston, each in Fillmore County. The project will be sited on approximately 23,000 acres within the 50,000 acre project boundary.

### ***Commission Review Process***

The EcoHarmony West Wind project is designed to produce 280 megawatts (MW) of power and thus is a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. §216B.2421). In accordance with Minnesota Statute 216B.243, no large energy facility may be sited or constructed in Minnesota without issuance of a certificate of need (CON) by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). On October 22, 2008, the EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, submitted a certificate of need application to the Commission. On January 15, 2009, the Commission issued an order accepting the application as complete and authorizing an informal review process.

The informal review process includes several steps designed to develop a record upon which a CON decision can be made by the Commission. These include the development of an environmental report by the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES), and a public hearing conducted by an administrative law judge (ALJ). Based on the ALJ's hearing report and the entire record, Commission staff will make a recommendation to the Commission on issuance of the certificate of need. The Commission is the final decision-making body.

The public hearing on the certificate of need will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Harmony Community Center, 2254 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW in Harmony, MN. A separate hearing notice will be provided with the detailed information. The Commission's review process for the CON is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of this electrical generation project will be considered.

### ***Related Actions***

In addition to a certificate of need, the EcoHarmony West Wind project requires a site permit for the wind farm, and a route permit for the 161 kV transmission line from the Commission. The site permit (WS-08-973) and route permit (TL-09-601) are being considered by the Commission in separate dockets.

### ***Project Contacts and Information***

For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Larry Hartman (651-296-5089 or [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)) Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the Office of Energy Security.

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e., large print or audio tape by calling (651) 201-2202 (Voice) OR 1800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).